GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:743
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015
LEGALISATION OF PROSTITUTION
Kashyap Shri Virender

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to legalise prostitution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;and

(c) the schemes being implemented by the Government for welfare of sex workers and their children in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI)

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is implementing 'Ujjawala' − a comprehensive scheme for prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation since 04th December, 2007. The scheme is envisaged for women and children who are vulnerable to trafficking and those who are victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. Sex workers who wish to be rehabilitated can also avail of rehabilitation services provided under the Ujjawala Scheme. As on date, 289 projects including 165 Protective and Rehabilitative Homes have been sanctioned under the Scheme.

These rehabilitation centres are given financial support for providing shelter and basic amenities such as food, clothing, medical care, legal aid, education in case the victims are children, as well as for undertaking vocational training and income generation activities to provide the victims with alternate livelihood option.

In addition, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the following schemes for women and children, which can be availed by sex workers and their children:-

(i) The Rajiv Gandhi National CrÃ¨che Scheme for children of working mothers provides day care facilities to children (age group 0-6 years) of working and other deserving women belonging to families whose monthly income is not more than Rs. 12,000/-.

(ii) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which provides a package of six services viz. supplementary nutrition, immunization, referral services, health check-up, pre-school education and health &nutrition education to children below six years of age and Pregnant & Lactating Mothers, irrespective of their economic status.

(i) The Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) which has various components including extending emergency outreach services through Childline toll free number 1098, open shelters for children in need in urban and semi urban areas, support for family based non-institutional care through sponsorship, foster care, adoption and after care and institutional care for children and juveniles. It caters to all children in need of care and protection, particularly beggars, street and working children, rag pickers, small vendors, street performers, orphaned, deserted, trafficked and run-away children, children of migrant population and any other vulnerable group of children